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October 26, 1900

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There were inspected and passed 86 cabin and 655 steerage passengers, and 241 pieces of large and 823 pieces of small baggage. One hundred and eighty pieces of baggage were disinfected by steam. There were also inspected 71 cabin and 139 steerage passengers from Genoa.

Smallpox.—Some time ago I reported the presence of smallpox in Sorrento. Since that time the spread of the disease has become general; it is now present in nearly all the seaports of the Sorrentine peninsula.

At the request of the vice-consul at Castellamare, all vessels that depart from that port for the United States will be inspected. The cargoes consist principally of lemons, nuts, oil, wine, and maccaroni.

The effects of the emigrants from the above-named districts are all disinfected before they go to the United States. Steam is used when the effects permit.

Respectfully,

VICTOR G. HEISER,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

JAPAN.

Plague in Kobe.

[Cablegram.]

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, October 23, 1900.

Plague is now present in Kobe.

ELDRIDGE.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

MEXICO.

Report from Vera Cruz.

VERA CRUZ, MEXICO, October 14, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report for the week ended October 13:

Cases of yellow fever, 13; deaths, 8. Cases of smallpox, 2; deaths, 2. Deaths from all causes, 42. During the week 3 vessels were issued bills of health. One hundred and fifty-nine passengers were inspected and issued health certificates. Only 44 of these passengers were bound for Cuba and United States.

The health of the shipping continues good, and a norther during the week has bettered the atmospheric conditions considerably.

Respectfully,

SAM'L. H. HODGSON,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

NICARAGUA.

Report from Bluefields—Fruit port.

BLUEFIELDS, NICARAGUA, October 11, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit the following weekly report: Two steamships have been inspected and cleared—the *Sunniva* for New Orleans, with no passengers, and the *Alabama* for New Orleans, with 17 passengers, having 25 pieces of baggage disinfected under my

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personal supervision. The agent of the Bluefields Steamship Company at this port received directions by mail from its head office in New Orleans to bring passengers to New Orleans, as the Louisiana State board of health had rescinded their resolution requiring vessels bringing passengers to be detained at the quarantine station five days, as far as Bluefields was concerned. Neither Dr. L. A. Wailes, the representative of the Louisiana State board of health, nor I having received any such information, I informed the agent to that effect. He considers his directions mandatory and takes the risk of the ship being detained, hence the 17 passengers, copies of whose certificates are inclosed, also those given to the ship's master.

Five deaths occurred in Bluefields for the week ended October 7, viz, 1 native, adult, male, of dysentery; 1 native, infant, male, tumor cancerosa; 1 native, infant, male, cause unknown; 1 native, child, male, disease of liver, and 1 native, child, female, of fever.

The sanitary condition of this port and vicinity continues good.

Respectfully,

D. W. GOODMAN,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

PORTO RICO.

Report of transactions at Ponce during September, 1900.

PONCE, P. R., October 1, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the quarantine and abstract of bills of health reports for the week ended September 29, 1900. I also inclose the monthly report of inspection of immigrants and a summary of the work done in the month of September, 1900.

There has not been a great amount of work during the month. One vessel was held in quarantine but allowed to transact business. One trunk only was disinfected, coming from Barranquilla, Colombia. Four immigrants were inspected and passed.

Owing to the difficulty in getting the mortality reports at the odd period of every two weeks, hereafter, unless otherwise directed, I will make a monthly report of mortality as made to me by the city board of health. During September there were an even 500 deaths in the Ponce district. This is a diminution of 181 from the month previous.

I am making a report of the cause of this large death rate and will forward it to the Bureau as soon as completed.

Respectfully,

W. W. KING,

Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

[Inclosure.]

Summary of transactions of Service during the month of September, 1900.

Total number of deaths reported during September, 1900.....	a 500
Total number of deaths reported during September, 1899.....	a 241
Total number of births reported during September, 1900.....	a 87
Total number of births reported during September, 1899.....	a 80
Number of vessels inspected during September, 1900.....	15
Number of vessels inspected during September, 1899.....	22

a These figures are for the city, playa, and surrounding district of Ponce.